From: The IACP
To: Hennessy, Vicki (SHF)
Subject: IACP"s The Lead: RCMP Seeing Smaller Number Of Blood Samples Than Expected Under Drug-Impaired Driving Law.
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Greetings Vicki Hennessy

Monday, March 25, 2019

POLICING & POLICY

RCMP Seeing Smaller Number Of Blood Samples Than Expected Under Drug-Impaired Driving Law.

CBC (CAN) (3/24, Tunney) reports, "The Royal Canadian Mounted Police were expecting to see their national forensic labs flooded with requests for blood tests after Canada's new impaired driving law came into effect, but they've seen just a small number so far." The RCMP's National Forensic Laboratory Services operation "receives bodily fluid samples, including blood and urine, that require forensic toxicology analysis to hold up in court." According to CNC, "The Liberals' new impaired driving legislation introduced three new drug-related offences for drivers who have consumed drugs within two hours of driving," and "all of them require a positive test from a suspect before a Crown attorney can secure a conviction." CBC adds, "According to numbers provided to CBC, the RCMP expected to see about 800 blood sample requests during the 2018/2019 fiscal year, which covered the first few months since the law came into place in June," and "as of the end of February, they've received just 80 requests." The RCMP "said that's because police forces across the country are still figuring out how to actually collect blood samples."

Poll: Most Americans Back More Stringent Gun Laws.

The AP (3/23, Pane, Swanson) reports most Americans support more stringent "gun laws, and most believe places of worship and schools have become less safe over the last two decades, according to a new poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research." The poll was carried out "both before and after this month's mass shooting at two mosques in New Zealand," and revealed "that 67 percent of Americans support making US gun laws stricter, while 22 percent say they should be left as they are and 10 percent think they should be made less strict."

Past Marijuana Use No Longer A Deal-Breaker For Atlanta Police Recruits.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (3/22, Habersham) reports, "In an effort to increase recruits, the Atlanta Police Department decided it will no longer ask potential hires about past marijuana usage – an issue that has kept potentially well-qualified candidates from being hired. 'I was really concerned we were losing applicants to marijuana usage,' Atlanta police chief Erika Shields said. 'As an employer, it's a really difficult space to find yourself in.'" Shields "said about 60 percent of potential Atlanta Police hires were removed from the application process due to past marijuana usage." According to the AJC, "The changes in the department's recruitment policy reflect the same changes in how society views people who have ever smoked pot: It's no longer a deal-breaker." The AJC adds, "With recreational use of marijuana now legal in 10 states and Washington, D.C., that slow acceptance is also being recognized by other law departments in Georgia and nationally."

Kansas City Approves Funding For More Police Officers.

The Kansas City (MO) Star (3/21, Kite) reports, "For the second year in a row, Kansas City Council members have approved a new budget providing for more police officers as the city grapples with spiking rates of homicide and other violent crime." Council members on Thursday "unanimously approved an amendment to the $1.7 billion budget city staff recommended last month that allocates another $300,000 to the police department for 12 more officers." Last year's budget "added 24 officers and 15 call-takers." The budget "also included a 2.9 percent, or $7.3 million, boost to the department for wage and benefit hikes, pension and health insurance increases, equipment maintenance and other priorities." In a statement, Sgt. Jake Becchina, "said KCPD appreciated the funds for extra officers. 'More officers hired allows us to better serve the citizens of Kansas City,' he said.

'This cascade of additional officers will have a positive impact in patrol operations as well as investigations.'"

CRIME & DRUGS

Teenager Arrested After Making Threat Against Charlottesville Schools.

ABC World News Tonight (3/22, story 10, 0:15, Muir) reported that a teenager was arrested "for threatening, quote, 'ethic cleansing' in Charlottesville schools." According to ABC World News Tonight, "Schools were closed for two days, but police now charging a 17-year-old, saying hate has no place in Charlottesville." The Washington Post (3/22, Heim) reports that Police Chief RaShall Brackney said the individual "was arrested in adjacent Albemarle County and is believed to have acted alone." Brackney refused to disclose "additional information about the teen other than to say he is not a student in the Charlottesville school system." The suspect "warned of an 'ethnic cleansing' at Charlottesville High School" on the day after he anonymously made the threat online, which was Wednesday. The teenager was "charged with threats to commit serious bodily harm on school property, a felony, and harassment by computer, a misdemeanor, Brackney said at a news conference attended by law enforcement and city leaders, including Mayor Nikuyah Walker," according to the Post.

USA Today (3/22, Price) reports, "The threat prompted Charlottesville City Schools to close for a second consecutive day Friday amid safety concerns while the investigation was ongoing." USA Today adds, "The Charlottesville police worked with the high school's superintendent, the Virginia State Police and the FBI during the investigation."

Possible Arsonist At California Mosque Left Note Referring To New Zealand Shootings.

The Huffington Post (3/24, Miller) reports, "Police are investigating a possible arson attack against a California mosque as a hate crime after investigators discovered a note referencing the March 15 mass shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand." According to the Huffington Post, "No injuries were reported after a fire broke out around 3 a.m. Sunday at the Islamic Center of Escondido, located roughly 30 miles north of San Diego, a spokesman for the Escondido Police Department told HuffPost." Police "said a person inside the mosque at the time was able to extinguish the fire before firefighters arrived on the scene." The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives "are investigating the incident along with local police."

The San Diego Union-Tribune (3/24, Winkley, Schroeder) reports, "There were seven people inside the Islamic Center of Escondido on West Sixth Avenue when the incident happened about 3:15 a.m., Escondido police Lt. Chris Lick said." One person "who was awake at the time spotted the flames, and the group managed to put out the fire before it caused any serious damage." Officers and firefighters "arrived soon after and quickly determined the fire was intentionally set." Lick "said an accelerant was used to set the blaze, although he couldn't say which kind. No suspect information was available."

Bomb Found In Ireland Linked To Those Sent To UK.

The Independent (UK) (3/22, Dearden) reports, "A letter bomb discovered at a sorting office in Ireland is believed to be part of a campaign that saw similar devices sent to targets in the UK." The Independent adds, "Bomb disposal experts were called to the An Post depot in Limerick after staff raised the alert on Friday morning," and "investigators said the package appeared to be 'identical' to four bombs received earlier this month at Heathrow, London City Airport, Waterloo railway station and the University of Glasgow."

CNN (3/22, Taggart, Veselinovic) reports, "Irish police were alerted to a suspicious item shortly after 6 a.m. local time on Friday, authorities said," and "the army's bomb disposal team arrived at the An Post's collection center at 9:50 a.m. local time, where the package was found. 'On arrival a cordon was established and the building was evacuated for the duration of the operation. A viable improvised explosive device contained in a plastic envelope was identified and made safe,' the Irish police statement said." London's Metropolitan Police "is cooperating with the Irish police on these investigations, both forces said. 'Whilst it is still early, from the images we've seen and from speaking to our counterparts in the Republic of Ireland, it appears that the package found in Limerick is linked to those sent to London and Glasgow on 5 and 6 March,' Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dean Haydon said."

TECHNOLOGY

Despite Increase In Federal Funding, Nationwide DNA Testing Backlog Has Nearly Doubled.

The Washington Post (3/23, Jackman) reports, "For 15 years, the Justice Department has tried to reduce the backlog of crime scene DNA samples awaiting testing at state and local crime labs," but "despite about $1 billion in federal spending to cut the number of untested cases, the number has grown by 85 percent in the past six years, according to a Government Accountability Office report issued Friday." The Post adds, "Experts say the problem is largely a product of the success of DNA testing, which has identified more than 440,000 previously unknown suspects over the past 20 years, and the increased willingness of police agencies to submit cases," but "no one is quite seeing the light at the end of the backlog tunnel, and the GAO found that the Justice Department wasn't setting goals for its backlog reduction because 'the goal of eliminating backlogs is

unachievable in the foreseeable future because [of] increases in demand for DNA analysis.'"

UK Police Chiefs Tell Homeowners To Demand Google Blur Their House On Street View.

The Telegraph (UK) (3/23, Gardner) reports, "The rise of Google's Street View tool has left homes across Britain vulnerable to burglars, police leaders have warned." According to the Telegraph, "Householders should consider asking the internet giant to blur out images of their properties to prevent them being targeted, officers said." The suggestion "comes as the head of Neighbourhood Watch warned that Street View allows criminals to scout for 'easy pickings'." The Telegraph adds, "Homes on nearly every major residential street in Britain have been made easily visible since Google launched the technology a decade ago," and "since then, a number of burglars have reportedly used the tool to 'case' potential targets."

GLOBAL SECURITY

Suspect Confesses To Dutch Tram Attack.

The New York Times (3/22, Pérez-Peña) reports Gokmen Tanis, the "primary suspect in the shooting aboard a Dutch tram that left three people dead and five wounded," confessed Friday in a closed court hearing – "his first appearance in court since he was arrested hours after the shooting." Tanis "said that he acted alone, prosecutors said." While authorities "had said they believed Mr. Tanis was the sole attacker on the tram in Utrecht, just southeast of Amsterdam," they are "looking into whether other people aided him in some way." The public prosecutor's office "has said that it intends to bring terrorism charges against the suspect," but it also is "investigating whether he had other motives."

New Zealand To Probe Role Of Spies, Guns In Mosque Attacks.

The AP (3/24, Perry) reports, "New Zealand will hold a top-level inquiry into the massacre of 50 people at two Christchurch mosques that will look into what roles semi-automatic guns, social media and intelligence agencies had preceding the attacks." Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern "announced Monday it would hold a Royal Commission of Inquiry, the country's highest form of investigation. 'While New Zealanders and Muslim communities around the world are both grieving and showing compassion for one another, they are also quite rightly asking questions on how this terror attack was able to happen here,' Ardern said." Ardem's cabinet "had previously agreed on holding an inquiry, but had not decided what level of investigation."

WPost A1: Experts Alarmed By White Supremacy Extremists' Online Campaigns. A front-page Washington Post (3/22, A1, Timberg) analysis says as mainstream tech companies "raced to contain the sounds and images" of New Zealand's "gruesome shooting," the online message board "8chan helped it thrive, providing a no-holds-barred forum that further propelled the extremism and encouraged new attacks." Online extremism experts said the 8chan users' "tone, tactics and propaganda were eerily similar" to that of ISIS, al Qaeda, and other Islamic terror groups, with the "biggest difference" being the 8chan users' "ambitions: a white-supremacist uprising, instead of a Muslim caliphate." The "persistence of the talk of violence on 8chan has led some experts to call for tougher actions by the world's governments." The "brazenness of the threats of racist and anti-Muslim violence posted on 8chan" also "poses a striking new challenge to a foundational idea of the Internet: that in all but the most extreme cases," hosting sites "are not legally or morally responsible for the content others upload to them."

New Zealand Bans Mosque Attack Suspect's Manifesto, Prompting Free Speech Debate. The AP (3/25, Perry) reports New Zealand's government on Saturday "banned the 74-page manifesto written and released by" 28-year-old Brenton Tarrant, "the man accused of slaughtering 50 people at two mosques in the city of Christchurch." Under the ban, "anybody caught with the document on their computer could face up to 10 years in prison, while anyone caught sending it could face 14 years." New Zealanders are now debating whether "the ban goes too far and risks lending both the document and the gunman mystique." Meanwhile, "media organizations appear to be taking up" Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's call to never mention Tarrant's name. Ardern last week vowed never to mention it because, she told Parliament, she wanted to deny him the notoriety he likely sought from his act. Many news outlets also "fear Tarrant will use his trial as a soapbox to promote his white nationalist views, especially after he fired his lawyer and said he'd represent himself."

IACP IN THE NEWS

Vail, Colorado Participates In IACP's "One Mind" Program.

The Vail (CO) Daily (3/22) reports, "Police are often the first to respond to people in crisis," and "Vail's police department is working to make sure those first responders can provide as much help as possible." The Vail Police Department "is participating in the One Mind program, which was developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police." Vail Police Chief Dwight Henninger "has long been associated with that group." The Daily adds, "According to the organization's website, One Mind focuses on 'uniting local communities, public safety organizations and mental health organizations so that the three become "of one mind."'" Henninger "said it has only been recently that there have been enough partners able to help with those goals. Vail police are working with the recently-created Eagle County Hope Center."

ALSO IN THE NEWS

Police Write Poem About Mile-Long Marijuana Trail On California Highway.

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (3/22, Magness) reports, "The California Highway Patrol says officers found a mile-long trail of bags stuffed with marijuana on a highway in Oakland on Thursday," and "to memorialize the occasion, the highway patrol shared news of the unlikely discovery in a short poem. '(Roses) are red, violets are blue, your spilled weed is green & we have a citation just for you,' the department wrote." The Bee adds, "Herman Baza, an officer with the California Highway Patrol, told the Bay City News the truck's gate wasn't properly fastened," and "that caused the bags of weed to tumble onto Highway 880 at around 3 p.m., according to CBS San Francisco." Police "say the breadcrumb trail of marijuana – which is legal in California – led them to the truck on the highway, CBS reported," and "police say there were more bags brimming with marijuana in the bed of the truck." Police "say 'the marijuana was from a legal business, but the driver was cited for driving without a commercial license.'"

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